Writing in the Field of Psychology

For this project I choose to interview Dr. Yarnell. She was my professor for my statistics class and I also have her for my child psychology class currently. She was the perfect professor to interview because she works closely with children every day, and that is something that I am interested in doing. This interview was very informative and gave me a better understanding of the types of writing I would need to do in my career field. I also learned why she writes and for who she does. She is very good at her job and enjoys writing, just like the author of the article she admires.

Dr. Yarnell explained that she had to do a great deal of writing to earn her Ph.D. in psychology. This included, but is not limited to, designing experiments and writing up her results and findings in a research report. She still writes reports up like these occasionally but she spends most of her time focusing on writing for her current job. She works with children who have been the victims of trauma such as abuse or rape. It is her job to observe them and write down all of her observations. She uses these to help her help them, or she will write a court document that will be used in court if the child needs it. This is the type of writing she does most often, but on a daily basis she also prepares foe class and answers emails.

I was slightly surprised to find out the purpose and audience Dr. Yarnell usually wrote for. I was under the impression she wrote notes and observations for herself that she would use later to help the child she was working with. While she does sometimes still write like this, she is usually writing up reports and documents that would be taken into court. These documents all had a very serious purpose, as they could potentially change the child’s entire future. The audience for these was a judge or a jury. She also writes less serious things like emails and presentations for class each day. The purpose of these is always school related and often ment for students or other psychology professors.

Dr. Yarnell has always enjoyed writing but has never had a passion for it. She really loves to write in her job because she knows her works is helping others, specifically the children she works with and their families. She feels a great sense of satisfaction, and feels rewarded when she is able to see the results of her work in her clients. She claims it is not always the easiest job but the reward she gets from it is worth the work.

Dr. Yarnell admires the work of Erik Erikson but she does not have a specific article that is her favorite. She looks to his work on a daily basis when she is trying to help her clients and children. Erikson’s theory of the psychological stages of development is the foundation of what Dr. Yarnell studies and also teaches in her class.

I learned a lot from the interview with Dr. Yarnell. She gave me so much good information that I will be able to use now and in my future career. I have learned that in the prefession there are many different types of writing I will have to read and write. This interviewed opened my eyes to what my future could look like.